

S. RES. 78

Whereas rehabilitation counselors conduct assessments, provide counseling, support families, and plan and implement rehabilitation programs for those in need of rehabilitation;

Whereas the purpose of professional organizations for rehabilitation counseling and education is to promote the improvement of rehabilitation services available to individuals with disabilities through quality education for counselors and rehabilitation research;

Whereas various professional organizations, including the National Rehabilitation Association, Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association, the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association, the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association, the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification, the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Council on Rehabilitation Education, have vigorously advocated up-to-date education and training and the maintenance of professional standards in the field of rehabilitation counseling and education;

Whereas on March 22, 1983, Martha Walker of Kent State University, who was President of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, testified before the Subcommittee on Select Education of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, and was instrumental in bringing the need for qualified rehabilitation counselors to the attention of Congress; and

Whereas the efforts of Martha Walker led to the enactment of laws that require rehabilitation counselors to have proper credentials, in order to provide a higher quality of service to those in need of rehabilitation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 22, 2009, as “National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day”; and

(2) commends—

(A) rehabilitation counselors, for their dedication and the hard work they provide to individuals in need of rehabilitation; and

(B) professional organizations, for the efforts they have made to assist those who require rehabilitation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 685. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 146, to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 685. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 146, to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . FLINT HILLS CONSERVATION EASEMENTS, KANSAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall offer to enter into such conservation easements as the Secretary determines to be necessary to protect the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie in eastern Kansas.

(b) WILLING OWNERS.—The Secretary shall offer to enter into conservation easements under subsection (a) with any willing owner of land or an interest in land located in a biologically significant area of the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie in eastern Kansas, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) TREATMENT.—A conservation easement entered into under this section shall be—

(1) a perpetual easement; and

(2) recorded on the deed of the relevant land or interest in land.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Energy of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the legislative hearing is to receive testimony on draft legislation to improve energy market transparency and regulation.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Rosemarie_Calabro@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Tara Billingsley at (202) 224-4756 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Energy of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 2 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the legislative hearing is to receive testimony on draft legislation to improve energy market transparency and regulation.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Rosemarie_Calabro@energy.senate.gov.

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AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 10 a.m. in Dirksen 430.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. The Committee will meet in room 334 of the Cannon House Office Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “The Need to Strengthen Forensic Science in the United States: The National Academy of Science’s Report on a Path Forward” on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER RECOVERY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “A New Way Home: Findings from the Disaster Recovery Subcommittee Special Report and Working with the New Administration on a Way Forward.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SECURITIES, INSURANCE, AND INVESTMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 18, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee hearing entitled "Lessons Learned in Risk Management Oversight at Federal Financial Regulators."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Health Care of the Committee on Finance will meet on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 2:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, March 19, at 2 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 22, the nomination of Elena Kagan to be Solicitor General of the United States; that there be 6 hours of debate with respect to the nomination, with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and SPECTOR or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination; that upon confirmation, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, no further motions be in order, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1512.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1512) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times and passed; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1512) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL REHABILITATION
COUNSELORS APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 78.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 78) designating March 22, 2009, as "National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 78) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 78

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ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH
19, 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, March 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half; further, that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 146, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under the previous order, at approximately 11 a.m., there will be up to three votes in relation to the remaining Coburn amendments, with a vote on passage of the bill shortly thereafter. This evening we were able to reach an agreement to consider the nomination of the Solicitor General to be of the United States, Elena Kagan. Senators should expect a vote on confirmation tomorrow afternoon or evening, depending on how much debate time is used.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JAMES W. MILLER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES, VICE MARK EVERETT KEENUM, RESIGNED.